

Sahtu Regional Newsletter

September 2008*4th Issue



Northwest Territories Industry, Tourism and Investment

Welcome to the 4th edition of the Sahtu ITI Newsletter. We are now located in the new Edward G. Hodgson Building overlooking the Mackenzie River, with a view of the Mountains. Since our last newsletter, ITI recruited three new employee's: Andy Short, Regional Superintendent, Mark Patrick, Manager, Tourism & Parks, and Leanne Taneton as Business Development Officer. Welcome to ITI!

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Regional Superintendent

I began my new position of Regional Superintendent with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment on April 1st, 2008 after transferring from the Department of Executive. One of the first things that I noticed right away about ITI was the dedication, commitment and excellent work ethic that our regional staff demonstrate every day, the same can be said of our Headquarters staff. I want to say thank you to all our staff for doing such a great job and making ITI such a fun place to work.

Over the past four months our Department has been involved in many exciting projects and initiatives throughout the Region such as working with the Norman Wells Claimant Corporation to host the highly successful 'Sahtu in the Arts' project, partnering with the Norman Wells Historical Society to fund a future tourism infrastructure project at the Norman Wells Airport. The regional staff have also been busy working with Sahtu communities on developing community gardens and promoting the tourism potential of the Region. ITI also helps to fund positions for the Community Economic Development Officers in the Region who provide business counseling services at the community level, hats off to doing a great job!

In the future, the residents of the Region will see our Department move forward on many fronts including developing the proposed Doi T'oh Territorial Park and Canol Heritage Trail, potentially the cornerstone of destination tourism development within our Region. We will also be promoting local tourism operators to offer world class guided tours, working with local renewable resource councils and trappers to promote traditional harvester programs, assisting communities to develop more capacity in local accounting and business services, promoting local artists and crafters by arranging workshops and helping to develop business, marketing and promotion skills, as well as working with industry to develop meaningful employment and training opportunities for Sahtu residents.

These are just a few areas we will be working on in the coming months, to see and hear what else the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is doing for the Region, please drop by our office located on the second floor of the Edward G. Hodgson Building in Norman Wells and talk to our staff. In the next couple of weeks, ITI staff member and painter, Antoine Mountain, will be working with the youth from Norman Wells on a 'mural project' for the Norman Wells Claimant Corporation. Our aim at ITI is to serve our clients and communities as best we can!



Andy Short – Regional Superintendent

TRADE & INVESTMENT

Nazim Awan, Manager-Trade and Investment nazim_awan@gov.nt.ca

Trade and Investment delivers traditional economy, economic development and small business financing programs. We are committed to serving Sahtu business needs. Current or prospective business owners can take advantage of our many free and confidential services regarding development in business, skills and marketing. This division also manages the Take a Kid Trapping, Community Harvesters Assistance, Grants to Small Business, and Community Futures Programs. We are working with the regional Business Development Officer and community Economic Development Officers (EDO), who are experienced, well informed, and network to offer ITI programs in their respective community. Community EDO provide the first point of contact for assistance to business owners and entrepreneurs for business start-ups, financing, resources and the assistance they need to succeed.

Last July, Nazim was promoted to the position of Manager- Trade and Investment. He has lived in the North for five years. During this time, he has acquired knowledge of distinctive Dene and Métis history and culture, the tremendous opportunities, and the various challenges faced by Northerners. He is involved in a number of business development, Aboriginal arts and fine crafts promotion, and business skills training projects.



Leanne Taneton, Business Development Officer

My name is Leanne Taneton, as the new Business Development Officer I would like to take this opportunity to say that I am grateful to be working in this capacity, and to be working in the Sahtu Region to assist in building business relationships, enhancing small businesses, and creating awareness in the areas of Business Development.

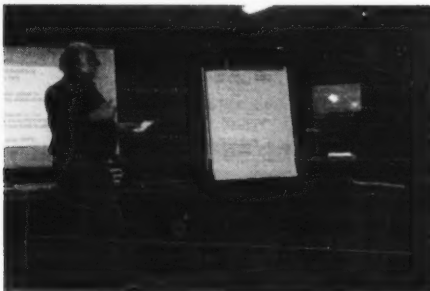
I am originally from Deline, a graduate from Grande Prairie Regional College with a Business Administrative Diploma, and my position will give me the opportunity to contribute and experience the economic growth of our Region.

It is my responsibility to determine the appropriate type of financial assistance required for businesses applying to our programs by evaluating their business and financial viability. I provide advisory assistance to clients and businesses, and I am also responsible for delivery of all ITI programs, including coordinating and tracking all contributions made in the Sahtu Region.

I look forward to the challenges that the Business Development Officer has to offer!



Capacity Building for Economic Developers in the Sahtu Region (CBEDS)



In 2006, the Regional office of Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment identified the need professional development need for community economic and business development, and land corporation staff along with band managers in the Sahtu. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) partnered with Government of the Northwest Territories for this project under SINED, a new funding program for fostering development in the North. SINED is the major funding source of the project for Capacity Building for Economic Developers in the Sahtu Region (CBEDS).

CBEDS first phase was delivered in January 2007. The second and third phase in August 2007 and February 2008 respectively. The fourth and final phase will be delivered in September this year, in Deline. Participants have been trained for economic development theory and business counseling skills.

REGIONAL PETROLEUM ADVISOR

The Department is taking more of a hands-on approach with mineral activities in the Region. The oil exploration companies who explore in the Region know what is expected of them, and they comply. However, mining activities are regulated differently and we need to have a better understanding of the process. At the same time mining companies need to know what is expected of them, especially regarding "Community Consultation."

Frank Pope, is the Petroleum Advisor for the Region. He reports that while this winter will not be too busy, it should be noted that the terms of several Exploration Licenses (EL's) run out in the next couple of years. Therefore work has to be undertaken soon to allow companies to retain rights on these parcels of land for a further term.

On a positive note both Kodiak and BG International are making plans to do some exploratory drilling next winter (2008/09). This will depend on the consultation process, access and benefits agreements and the regulatory process reaching satisfactory conclusion in a timely manner.

One issue being closely monitored are plans by government agencies to develop guidelines to reduce the width of seismic cut lines. The Department's concerns are economic loss to local businesses who have invested heavily to provide service to the industry as well as the over-regulation of the industry. Frank Pope can be reached at frank_pope@gov.nt.ca.



"ITI Minister Bob McLeod shown in front of the Akita RIG 40 working for Husky Energy on it's North Haywood project during the winter of 2007/08. From left to right: Gerry LePrieur, Executive Assistant, Frank Pope, and representatives of Sahtu/Akita Drilling and Husky Energy."

TOURISM & PARKS

Tourism and Parks is responsible for providing support to the Sahtu tourism industry through a variety of programs and services. These programs include assistance with product development, marketing (through Northwest Territories Tourism), training and research. With the implementation of the Tourism Product Diversification and Marketing Program, we are also able to provide funding to tourism businesses under three separate schedules – Business Planning and Transition Assistance; Product Development and Enhancement; and Marketing Assistance.

Tourism and Parks is also responsible for maintenance and support of Territorial Parks, which includes McKinnon Territorial Park and the future Doi T'oh Territorial Park and CANOL Heritage Trail. We have already begun improvements and some minor upgrades to McKinnon Park for 2008 and look forward to making some other improvements in the near future.

In mid-June 2008, Mark Patrick was appointed as the new Manager of Tourism and Parks for the Sahtu Region. If you have any comments, suggestions or new ideas for your community, please feel free to contact him at anytime.



Mark Patrick,
Manager, Tourism & Parks

Jordan Balanuik, Luc Erb, Denis McCauley, Norman Yakeleya, William Horasi,
Joe Handley, Rob Carroll, Mark Patrick, Sarah Baker, Robbie Tozer, Jules Fournel,
Myles Erb, Chuck Parker, Garth Wallbridge



Canol Trail Youth Leadership Hike 2008

SAHTU IN THE ARTS PROJECT

I began my summer student position here with ITI the first week of May, with two complete weeks of orientation with the Norman Wells Office, basically to work out a Plan of Action for the Summer of 2008, for the Sahtu In The Arts Project.

We had our first of two Community Information Workshops in Radelie Koe/Fort Good Hope the week of Monday, June 19th and met with the local EDO, Vivian Edgi-Manuel. I should also mention here that we began in each location with a presentation at the local schools, to help encourage youth.

These Information Workshops, which took place in each of the five Sahtu communities were also held throughout the rest of June and most of July, in Deline, Colville Lake, Tulita and here in Norman Wells.



Antoine, Mountain, Arts and Traditional Fine Arts Development Officer.

The workshops followed a format which basically asked and answered questions to do with the purpose of art and the role of the artist, followed with a description of the various art disciplines, 'Art as an Education' was also a topic of our discussions at these Community Information Workshops, along with the grants available to artists, as in those from the Canada Council for the Arts.

The subject of The 'Sahtu In the Arts' was also covered, with our upcoming plans for a regular art show and an evening of drum music and story telling held in Yellowknife, at the end of June.

This was followed by a visual and Power Point presentation of my own artworks. One of the activities we are planning for the Sahtu Region is an exhibition of our own Sahtu Artists Association.

Finally we ended each community information workshop with a talk about Art as a Business, and so carried on to the next place to visit.

ITI in Norman Wells is sponsoring, along with the Norman Wells Claimant Corporation, a total of twelve Artist of the Sahtu for this art show, along with an Evening of Music and Story-telling at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre on Thursday, June 26th. In particular the ITI Office staff here, including our superintendent Andy Short, staff members Nazim Awan and Leanne Taneton organized a charter with North Wright Air to and from Yellowknife for this Sahtu In The Arts show.

The twelve Artists of the Sahtu were accommodated at the Explorer Hotel in Yellowknife, where most of the activities took place.

In preparation for all of this we also had the aid of ITI staff in Yellowknife and the museum who provided both financial assistance and staff personnel to help with advertising in the newspaper, posters and online newsletters. Their help, along with that of the Arrowmakers Gallery proved invaluable support saw to it that all went according to plan, and more.



Fort Good Hope Painter's with EDO Vivian Edgi-Manuel

There was extensive media, newspaper, radio and television coverage for all of this.

Finally, we have had some excellent feedback from all concerned with this Sahtu In The Arts and hope to do this again in the future.

Economic Development Officer Report-Tulita

Basic Bookkeeping Training, Tulita

A basic bookkeeping training course was conducted in the community of Tulita between May 9 and May 14, 2008 for the benefit of individuals and community organizations' staff involved in bookkeeping and accounting assignments. It was sponsored by Tulita Yamoria Community Secretariat on behalf of the Hamlet of Tulita and funded under the Business Development Fund Program Schedule G-Community Initiatives project of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Sahtu Region, Norman Wells.

Participants were drawn from the Hamlet of Tulita, BJ Services, Tulita Dene Band, Fort Norman Métis Land/Financial Corp and Mackay Range Development Corp. and individuals planning to go into businesses of their own.

The training, which was offered on a one-on-one basis, afforded the participants the opportunity of receiving instructions and at the same time asking questions on topics being treated. Due to the size of the groups, adequate time and personal attention was given to individual-specific and unique questions.

The sessions were facilitated by Brad Carlson, an experienced and seasoned administrator, who was in the community of Tulita for a number of years before relocating to Yellowknife. His first hand knowledge of the community and the individuals contributed immensely to the success of the training.



Around the Sahtu



Norman Wells



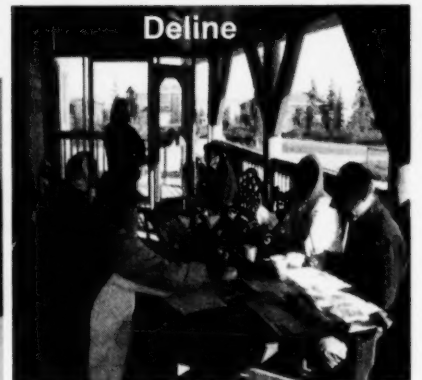
Colville Lake



Fort Good Hope



Deline



UPCOMING EVENTS!

CBEDS Workshop
September 15-19, 2008
Location: Deline

**NWT Tourism Conference
and AGM**
November 13 – 15, 2008
Location: Yellowknife Inn,



How to Contact ITI

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If you have any questions, comments or suggestions for our newsletter, please contact the editor Leanne Taneton at leanne_taneton@gov.nt.ca, or Ph: (867) 587-7166.